

8 October 2025

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/68

On Monday, 8 September 2025 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

Can you also advise whether the Commission has received any complaints about alleged breaches of the Electoral Act by other members of Te Pati Maori, the Labour Party or any other person in relation to the recent by-election.

More broadly, I understand the Commission is investigating Te Pati Maori for a number of alleged breaches of the Electoral Act relating to previous elections. On that basis, please treat this email as an Official Information act request for all records relating to each of the Commission's investigation into these alleged breaches, Te Pati Maori's response to each and the specific sanctions the Commission has applied. If any of the Commission's investigations remain incomplete, then please advise an expected date for completion.

Please find answers to your questions below.

In relation to the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election held on 6 September 2025, we received complaints regarding 12 alleged breaches of the Electoral Act. Having looked into these matters, 6 matters were referred to Police. The details of the referrals are set out in the media notices linked here ([15 September 2025](#) and [19 September 2025](#)). The Commission does not name individuals being referred. As the matters are with Police, the Commission is not able to provide the information you have requested. Your request is therefore refused under s 6(c) of the Act on the basis that disclosure of the information requested would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, detection and investigation of offences.

The Electoral Commission is not investigating Te Pāti Māori for alleged breaches of the Electoral Act relating to previous elections. Any matters that we have investigated have either been closed or referred to Police. The Electoral Commission has no powers to impose sanctions. If the Commission believes there has been a breach, it must refer the matter to Police.

Details of previous police referrals regarding non-compliance related to Te Pāti Māori are outlined below:

| Date of referral | Description |
|------------------|---|
| 9 April 2021 | Referral of party secretary for failure to declare donations or aggregated donations exceeding \$30,000 within 10 working days (sections 210C and 210D) |
| 29 November 2023 | Referral relating to text messages promoting Te Pāti Māori which were published prior to the election without a promoter statement (section 204F) |
| 4 October 2024 | Referral relating to Te Pāti Māori's failure to file annual financial statements (sections 210G and 210H) |

Copies of the Electoral Commission referrals for the matters of 9 April 2021 and 4 October 2024 are attached. Copies of the donations returns filed are attached. Copies of the financial statements filed are available [here](#). Some contact details, such as phone numbers, some email addresses, and names, have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of an individual and under s 6(c) of the Act on the basis that disclosure of the information requested would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, detection and investigation of offences. In each case where redactions have been made under section 9(2)(a), consideration has been given to, and I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding of the information are not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make that information available.

We understand that investigation regarding the matter referred to Police on 29 November 2023 is ongoing, and so the Commission is not able to provide the information you have requested. Your request is therefore refused under s 6(c) of the Act on the basis that disclosure of the information requested would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, detection and investigation of offences.

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every 3 months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Kristina Temel
Manager, Legal Regulation and Policy